



# Big Emory

## BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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Dear Family of Churches,

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of participating in the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Jackson, Tennessee. The Pastor's Conference on Monday followed by two days of reports, business, announcements, and times of worship were carried out with order and a sense of excellence. Rev. Randy Davis, Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Sevierville is our new president and we look forward to his leadership in the year ahead. Keep our convention in your prayers.

Pastors please help our Evangelism Team Leader, Mike Winters, with your prayerful and prompt response to the email evangelism survey elsewhere in this letter. Our country and world is in great need of the gospel.

Imagine what would happen if our 56 churches joined hands and hearts and moved across our three county area together! GPS can help us do just that. The Pastor/Church Preparation Guide was in your annual meeting packet or you can download it and other valuable resources at [www.gps.2020](http://www.gps.2020). The winter edition of On Mission magazine also has some great helps.

I pray you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and are looking forward to Christmas. "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable Gift." (2 Corinthians 9:15)

Bro. Mason



### Evangelism Survey

I was recently elected as the BEBA Evangelism Team Leader and I need your help. Would you be so kind as to share your ideas as to how we can help our churches to reach more people with the gospel? Do we need to offer training, have one big associational rally or regional rallies? I think all of us agree that there is a great need to share the gospel in this area, but what can we do to help each other do a better job?

I look forward to hearing your ideas and making this a cooperative effort. Thanks so much.  
Mike Winters

### TBC Annual Meeting

More than 1,100 messengers from nearly 500 churches gathered at the West Jackson Baptist Church in Jackson, Tennessee for the 135th annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. We are grateful to our TBC leaders for planning and conducting this meeting with such a sense of excellence. God blessed in a tremendous way. I pray each person was inspired, encouraged, challenged and returned to their churches as ambassadors for what God is doing in, through and for Tennessee Baptist.

I really appreciate all those who took the time and made the effort to represent Big Emory Baptist Association. I also want to thank those who could not attend for your prayers and support, not only for the meeting but all year long. There could be no annual meeting without all of us working together. God bless you each one and to Him be all the glory!

Next year's meeting will be at Grace Baptist Church in Knoxville.

### Christmas Ministries

Big Emory Baptist Association churches are working hard to provide a Christmas gift for all the inmates at Morgan County Regional Prison in Wartburg. WMU Director, Mary Lane Moore, has communicated the need and there has been a good response, but we're still short of our goal of 2500 prison bags. December 9th is the deadline so if you could help you would have to act quickly. Each bag should contain 3 REGULAR size candy bars, 3 stamped envelopes, 1 Christmas card with church name and 1 tract (tracts provided by BEBA). NO substitutes! The bags will be given out at 6 p.m. on December 15. If you could help, please contact Mary Simpson at 423.346.6286 or call the BEBA office at 865.882.6446.

Also – we have a Mission of Hope Blue Barrel at the BEBA office for those who would like to help 17,000 children in Appalachia have a better Christmas. The need is for non perishable food, unwrapped toys, clothing and hygiene items and must be here by December 7th.

Three BEBA churches: Riverside, White's Creek, and South Harriman are working together to help 20 families near Hazard, Kentucky have a better Christmas. They will deliver their gifts personally on December 18 & 19. For information on how you can help you may call Charlie Hampton at cell# 617-4707.

### Church News:

**Beech Park Baptist Church** moved to their new facilities (the old Tri County Shopping Center) on November 8, 2009. A tremendous crowd enjoyed a wonderful worship service in an atmosphere of excitement, joy and thanksgiving. On behalf of the church, Bro. Robbie Leach, the pastor wants to thank everyone for their prayers during the months and years of transition and requests that you continue to pray for them.

**First Baptist Church Rockwood** presents "A Rockwood Christmas Homecoming" December 5th at 2:30 p.m. and December 6th at 6:30 p.m. A reception will follow both programs. All churches in the Big Emory Baptist Association are invited!

There will be a free Christmas Concert at the **First Baptist Church Wartburg** on December 5th at 7:30 p.m. The concert will feature the Wartburg Choral Society and will be broadcast live by local radio WECO. Everyone is invited.

The Gladys Howard Baptist Women, at **Riverside Baptist Church**, is sponsoring their own "Blessings in a Box" for the senior residents of the Harriman Garden Apartments. Each man and woman will receive a gift box of appropriate essential and useful items. There are 77 residents and the whole church is involved.

**First Baptist Church Rockwood** presents "THIS HOPE" December 19th at 6:30 p.m.

THIS HOPE is a group of five young men who present ministry through music. Formed in the harsh environment of the Alaskan frontier, THIS HOPE discovered a unifying bond that has spanned well over a decade. Their style is contemporary in feel, and they combine a variety of a cappella sounds along with instrumental-driven songs that speak to a variety of cultures and generations.

The Lord has opened many doors of ministry opportunities for THIS HOPE. They sing 200 concerts each year throughout the United States, and they have also ministered overseas in Spain, the Canary Islands, Cuba, Romania, and Ukraine. With an emphasis on ministry, their heart is to encourage believers and see lives changed by the gospel of Jesus Christ.

You can learn more about "THIS HOPE" online at [www.thishope.org](http://www.thishope.org).

### Financial Issues Facing Churches and Ministers Seminar

February 9, 2010, 10 a.m. – Noon at the Knox County Baptist Association Office

This seminar is for church treasurers, budget committees, personnel committees, ministers, and church staff. Many churches, committees, and ministers make costly mistakes that affect both the church's financial position as well as the minister's individual finances. Structure it right on the front end and save time, money, and hassles.

Topics: **Benefits Programs: Insurance** – Retirement – Matching Contributions  
**Federal Reporting: Excess Benefit Transactions** – DON'T do this! – What to report as income – IRS

Forms and other Publications - Compliance: When to use W2 and 1099 - Form 944

**Charitable Contributions: Cash Contributions** – Designated Giving – is the gift deductible? – Non-cash Gifts – Appraisal Rules – Donation of Vehicles

**Other Financial Issues: Housing Allowance** – Expense Reimbursements

### CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES:

#### Regular BEBA Office Hours

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Lunch 12 noon – 1 p.m.

Prayer Time at the BEBA Office every Wednesday at 8 a.m.

Storehouse Ministry Center – 423.346.5267 – Fax - 865.882.5888

Check out our website: [www.beba.ws](http://www.beba.ws).

December 3 – Christmas Drop-In, BEBA Office, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

December 3 – Prayer Team Meeting, 1 p.m. at the BEBA Office

December 3 – Rebuild Ministry Team Meeting, 7 p.m. at the BEBA Office

December 9 – Executive Board Meeting, 9 a.m. at South Harriman Baptist Church

December 9 – Deadline for Prison Ministry Bags to be brought to the BEBA Office

December 14 – Executive Board Meeting, 9 a.m. at South Harriman Baptist Church

December 16 – Associational Youth Christmas Concert, 7 p.m. at Trenton Street Baptist Church

December 24 – Christmas Eve! BEBA Office Closed

December 25 – Christmas Day! BEBA Office Closed

December 28 – January 1 – Holidays! BEBA Closed

### Remember in prayer our churches without pastors:

Caney Ford, Coal Hill, Crab Orchard, Paradise, Riggs Chapel

The Storehouse Ministry Center in Wartburg will have an "Open House" from 2 p.m. till after the Christmas Parade on December 5. Be sure and stop by!

### Week of Prayer!

The emphasis for this years Week of Prayer for International Missions continues through December 6th. The theme is "Who's Missing? Whose Mission?"

Some 5,563 (1,293 short term and 4,270 long term) International Missionaries as well as churches, volunteers and local believers are counting on our prayers and support through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

Help your church reach their goal! Pray and give so everyone everywhere has an opportunity to hear about Jesus. God has called every one of us to help fulfill the Great Commission. Last year God used the IMB to start 26,970 new churches and baptize 565,967 new believers. Every penny of the Lottie Moon Offering goes to help get the gospel into all the world. Find out more by calling WMU at 1.800.968.7301 or logging onto [www.imb.org/weekofprayer](http://www.imb.org/weekofprayer). We appreciate Mary Lane Moore and our WMU Team.

Please try to include our Missionary Kid, Aletha Lyons, in the Christmas Holidays. A card, gift, call, email, etc. would be special. Aletha Lyons, UU 1343, Union Drive, Jackson, TN 38305 or [lethalou91@lyons-den.net](mailto:lethalou91@lyons-den.net)

### Youth Christmas Concert!

All of our Big Emory Association churches are invited to Trenton Street Baptist Church on Wednesday, December 16, 2009 at 7 p.m. for the Associational Youth Christmas Concert. Each youth is asked to bring a wrapped Christmas present (identified as boy or girl and age). All gifts will be distributed through the Storehouse Ministries.

You may call Kevin Sellars at 865.882.9232 or the BEBA office at 865.882.6446 for more information. "And she brought forth her first born Son...and laid Him in a manger. (Luke 2:7)

### Christmas Drop In!

While you're out shopping, off for lunch, or if you just want to make a special trip, you are invited to drop in at the BEBA office on Thursday, December 3rd from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a Christmas visit and enjoy the sights, sounds, and smells of this wonderful season of the year.

We look forward to sharing this time with you.